

Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd
Agenda
Board meeting 31 March 2005

1. Apology

2. Minutes of the last meeting

3. Financial Situation

Subscriptions

1. Subscription income is still coming in. It is no slower than usual. It is just that we started late in asking for subscriptions. I propose to send out a reminder soon.

ACCORD

2. The ACCORD proposal to commission Federations to develop co-operative case studies is in hiatus because of the resignation of the General Manager (Paul Fitzgerald) and the Chairman (Uri Windt). There is an Acting General Manager until an appointment is made. ACCORD's Suzanne Henderson is raising with the Acting General Manager the issue of the case studies. For personal reasons her ability to do this has its own limitations.

3. The ACCORD hiatus also impacts on any potential ACCORD involvement in co-operative education as both Fitzgerald and Windt were the two from ACCORD involved.. Both had expressed an interest but this required a MOU which Co-operative College was to prepare to protect their interests. It remains uncertain what direction will now take with the departure of Fitzgerald, Windt and previously Cronan. It could result in the "university" interest dominating over a "co-operative/social economy" interest. While realistic optimism is appropriate, I would tend now to regard the proposals made by Fitzgerald to CFV as more historically-based than a future possibility.

4. The ACCORD hiatus is beyond our control and influence and there is nothing that we can do to impact on the hiatus.

ICA

5. The ICA project is proceeding. Two payments have been received. The ICA is pleased with the work to date and has committed to ongoing involvement. Further funds will be forthcoming soon. The original proposal for the ICA funds were that CFV would retain 10% of the first \$5000. As the total funds may be only slightly more than this, I increased the CFV retention from 10% to 20% for

the second payment received and proposed that CFV retain 22.5% for subsequent payments up to \$5000 and that for any payments above \$5000 in a 12 month period that CFV retain 30%. I have reported separately on the ICA Project.

6. A by-product of the work for the ICA is the discovery of information about co-operative education and, in particular, the work of consumer co-ops in promoting consumer rights and consumer education.

CAV

7. CAV support has been clarified on 21 March 2005 by Graeme Charles. Needless to say getting the clarification required some persistence. CAV reported that \$25,000 would be provided but not for the co-operative education proposal on the basis that there were insufficient funds. Graeme is attempting to verify with David Cousins whether the education proposal is being “blocked” by CAV and/or the Minister. We need to recall that the initiative for the proposal was from CAV. We were not bold enough to assume such an ambitious proposal. Nonetheless, I suspect that the large proposal has leveraged the small proposal. In consultation with Tony and Graeme, a submission has been forwarded to CAV. The submission includes the development of further co-operative case studies and a user name and password protected section of australia.coop – both essential for any co-operative education. While they are needed for australia.coop, they are steps towards our co-operative education proposals developed with the Co-operative College.

8. A fundamental weakness for us is the perception of CFV as being light-weight and, therefore, a suspicion that we would not be able to deliver. We did not address this issue at the presentation. But, then, nor did CAV ask us about it. It is, however, an issue they are concerned with. With ACCORD we cannot move forward. We could have attempted to move forward with the CFWA and discussions with consumer co-operatives - to demonstrate to CAV that we have the ability to bring in other parties i.e. deliver. The issue is not so much the need for other parties as our ability and willingness to engage these other parties.

8. Based on our work with the Co-operative College, Graeme Charles has been talking with a Project Officer from the Gardiner Foundation re co-operative education for dairy co-ops. The initial reaction has been positive to the idea and GC has met with the Project Officer. The Co-operative College has already provided GC with information and costings for the development of the proposal. G emphasised that the finalisation of a proposal will depend on the support of the dairy co-ops and that they would not be approached until it is clear that the Foundation would be interested in receiving a submission on a without prejudice basis. There is interest in receiving a submission but for under \$25,000. It has been suggested that seeking a larger grant would be too competitive for us to succeed.

9. I would suggest that we do seek the \$25,000 and that it be used for a co-operative education training needs-based analysis and a subsequent workshop and that we seek to work with the Co-operative College, CFWA and dairy co-operatives. If this project succeeds it will create legitimacy for our further involvement in co-operative education.

10. Subject to the success Graeme has with clarifications, the only way to move co-operative education forward (other than 9) is to build-up partners and constituency support. This is obviously difficult with limited resources.

A list of payments for approval is appended. Note that some of these are reimbursable through the CAV grant.

4. New Registered Co-operatives

In 2004 there were 23 new registered co-operatives:

INDEPENDENT TOY SPECIALISTS OF AUSTRALIA CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
BORONIA PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE LTD
WATER PRO'S CO-OPERATIVE LTD
THE BALDESSIN PRESS CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
SCORESBY PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE LTD
CASTERTON SECONDARY COLLEGE CAFETERIA CO-OPERATIVE LTD
MOORLEIGH CERAMIC CO-OP LTD
DAIRY FARMERS MILK CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
TUMBLING OLIVES CO-OPERATIVE LTD
ELISABETH MURDOCH COLLEGE CO-OPERATIVE LTD
WANGOOM CO-OPERATIVE LTD
SAN REMO BOWLS CLUB CO-OPERATIVE LTD
MONBULK PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL CO-OPERATIVE LTD
TOOTGAROOK CO-OP LTD
HILLSMEADE PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING CO-OPERATIVE LTD
NUMURKAH SECONDARY COLLEGE GYMNASIUM CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
MACEDON RANGES ART & CRAFT CO-OPERATIVE LTD
MOUNT ELIZA P S (NO.2) CO-OPERATIVE LTD
MIDDLE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE LTD
MIDDLE KINGLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
KANIVA COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE LTD
EAST GIPPSLAND INDIGENOUS AQUACULTURE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED
THE CHESTNUT PROCESSING CO-OPERATIVE LTD

Ten of the co-operatives appear to be school-based and, therefore, in all probability have been formed to secure access to a Victorian Government guarantee for building and construction works at schools. This guarantee facility is only available for co-operatives and, while understandable, co-operatives formed under these circumstances are not genuine co-operatives.

A letter inviting these co-operatives to consider membership of CFV was mailed on March 2005, The letter also indicated a willingness to further discussions and attendance at a meeting if required. An information kit was also forwarded. Apart from the required statutory information, the kit includes copies of:

Australia.coop newsletter

Australia.coop brochure

The Co-operative Formation Decision

What is a co-operative?

Why do co-operatives fail as co-operatives?

As of **28 March 2005** the envelope to the TOOTGAROOK CO-OP LTD was returned address unknown and there had been no response from the other 22 co-operatives.

5. Australia.coop newsletter

With the approval of the Chairman, an australia.coop newsletter was developed, published and distributed in March 2005. Unlike its predecessor the Victorian Co-operative News, it is a minimum maintenance low-cost newsletter which provides basic information. As of **28 March 2005** copies distributed **120**:

78 hard copy

25 email

17 web site (26 hits)

6. ICA Project

The ICA Project is proceeding. A database for about 236 co-operatives has been developed in Filemaker Pro. An example profile will be tabled at the meeting.

CFV income retained from the ICA Project has been about \$344 with at least another \$200 to come – a total of approximately **\$544** that represents the equivalent of annual subscriptions from three small co-operatives.

I have already emailed separately on 3 March 2005 ICA's Garry Cronan's comments on progress to date:

Hi David

I thought I would take this occasion to personally thank you for the work that you are doing on the CEO project. We are very please with the quality of the work and look forward to continuing to work with you in later stages of this project. I would also, like you to pass on my congratulations on your work to your board.

After we receive the outstanding reports from you for this first stage, we can discuss in more detailed the next batch of research work. Once again, thanks for helping on what I think will become a landmark project for the ICA.

Kind regards

Garry

There have been three by-products of the ICA project:

Collection of information about consumer co-operatives

Collection of information about co-operative involvement in education.

Collection of information about co-operative federations.

Collection of information about consumer co-operatives

Brief profiles have been developed for 11 consumer co-operatives and their Federations.

Consumer Co-op International – Switzerland

Co-operative Group – Uk

Co-operativesUK – UK

Co-op Swiss - Switzerland

Federation of Migros Co-operatives - Switzerland

Grupo Eroski and Erkop – Spain

Hispacoop – Spain

JCCU – Japan

KF – The Swedish Co-operative Union

NTUC Fairprice - Singapore

Oxford, Swindon & Gloucester Co-op - UK

Copies of five of the profiles were emailed to CAV and directors on 8 March 2005.

Consumer Co-op International – Switzerland

Co-operativesUK – UK

Co-operative Group – Uk

Co-op Swiss - Switzerland

Hispacoop - Spain

In an email to CAV I stated:

Graeme Charles has suggested that I forward you some information that may interest David, yourself and your colleagues.

CFV has been developing a small database on key consumer co-operatives and federations overseas.

The basis for this is the explicit application of co-operative principles and practices by these co-operatives and, therefore, their approach and experience is particularly relevant to consumer education and protection in Australia and consumer co-operatives here - including the

relationship of consumer co-operatives to their consumer owners and the role of consumer co-operatives in consumer information and education.

While a separate project, the work underpins our co-operative education proposal. But, then, the Co-operative College in the UK has primarily focussed on consumer co-operatives.

The information collected by CFV is not otherwise collected and analysed in Australia. This process has involved translating non-english language web sites and/or documents including complete annual reports.

A product of the project is the development of a unique database and Graeme has suggested that I forward some of the data sheets developed for your information.

The purpose of the profiles is to establish a database which gives basic profile information on consumer co-operatives and federations and, therefore, a basis for comparing the profile of consumer co-operatives in Australia.

Collection of information about co-operative federations.

The initial purpose is to develop a profile of Federations throughout the world to provide a comparative context for analysing the situation of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd. Information has been collected 33 Federations.

Name of Federation	Type of Federation	Country
AGCI (Associazione Generale Cooperative Italiane)		Italy
ANNC (Associazione Nazionale delle Cooperative di Consumatori)	Consumer co-operatives	Italy
BCC Credito Cooperativo	Credit co-operatives	Italy
BGV (Co-operative Federation of Baden)	All co-operatives	Germany
CONFAGRI	Agricultural co-operatives	Portugal
CONAPROLO	Dairy co-operatives	Uruguay
Confederazione Cooperative Italiane	All co-operatives	Italy
Co-op de France	Agricultural co-operatives	France
Cooperative di Produzione e Labore associazione nazionale	Producer co-operatives	Italy
Co-operatives UK	All but primarily consumer retail	UK
Credit Union Central of Canada	Credit unions	Canada
CUDE Coop	All co-operatives	Uruguay
DGVR	Central association and federation for all co-operatives	Germany
Federation Francaise des Cooperatives et Groupement d'Artisans	Craftspeople co-operatives	France
Federation Nationale Des Cooperatives Et Groupements Du Transport	Transport co-operatives	France

FDB (Faellesforeningen for Danmarks Brugsforeninger)	All co-operatives	Denmark
FEBECCOOP	All co-operatives	Belgium
Federation of the Co-operatives of Tradesmen	Tradesperson co-operatives	France
FENACCOOP	Consumer co-operatives	Portugal
GdW	Housing Co-operatives	Germany
General Confederation of the Co-operative Companies of Production	Worker co-operatives	France
HISPACCOOP	Consumer co-operatives	Spain
ICMIF	Insurance co-operatives	UK
JCCU	Consumer co-operatives	Japan
KF	All cOops	Sweden
Konsumverband Geschichte	Consumer co-operatives	Germany
Korean Federation of Community Credit Co-operatives	Credit co-operatives	Korea
NACF – National Agricultural Cooperative Federation	Agricultural co-operatives	Korea
NCBA	All co-operatives	USA
SNCF (Singapore National Co-operative Federation)	All co-operatives	Singapore
UNACC (National Union of Co-operatives of Credit)	Credit Unions	Spain
Zenkyoren – National Mutual Insurance Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives	Agricultural Co-operatives	Japan
Zenrosai – National Federation of Workers and Consumers Insurance Co-operatives	Insurance co-operatives	Japan
Zentralverband des Deutschen Backerhandwerks	Baker co-operatives	Germany
ZGV	Commercial groups	Germany

A brief profile is being prepared on each Federation. The profiles are being developed in a Filemaker Pro database. An example profile will be tabled at the meeting.

7. australia.coop

Updated statistics to end February were emailed to directors on 1 March 2005.

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Accounts Paid submitted for approval:

Amount	Date	To	Purpose
\$369	6/3/05	Graeme Charles	Travel
\$89	10/3/05	David G	Remburse emergency NETC payment because of mail delay.
\$401.40	9/3/05	Australia Post	Mailing of australia.coop newsletter, air mail packages to South Africa and various other purchases.
\$90.04	10/3/05	Telstra	Telephone charges and calls
\$426	10/3/05	DG	Honorarium for April 2005
\$394	4/3/05	Office Works	Paper and Ink Cartridges
\$89.95	21/2/05	NETC	Internet connection
\$30.60	21/2/05	DG	Expenses
\$900	15/2/05	DG	Forwarding of funds from ICA payment for ICA project
\$152.39	7/2/05	Viking	Ink cartridges
\$53.77	7/02/05	Australia Post	Postage etc
\$84.96	27/1/05	Australia Post	Postage etc
\$269.85	27/1/05	DG	Reimbursement for monthly payments to NETC in August, september and October
\$245	18/1/05	Graeme Charles	Co-op Education Travel and Telephone
\$1000	13/1/05	DG	Forwarding of

			funds from ICA payment for ICA project
\$164.35	12/1/05	Australia Post	
\$89.95	12/01/05	NETC	Internet connection
\$86.50	5/1/05	Telstra	
\$852	5/1/05	DG	Secretary Honorarium February and March
\$75	29/12/04	Graeme Charles	Co-operative education telephone calls including to UK
\$59.90	4/12/05	NETC	Internet connection
\$40.90	13/12/04	CAV	Annual Report Lodgement Fee
\$211.40	9/12/04	Australia Post	
\$426	4/12/04	DG	Residue of 50% of Honorium owed for December and January
\$92.41	24/11/04	Telstra	
\$426	19/11/04	DG	Residue of 50% of Honorium owed for October and November
\$189.47	7/11/04	Australia Post	
\$120	4/11/04	NETC	Internet connection
28/10/04	\$140.80	Urban Camp Co-operative	AGM lunch
28/10/04	\$60.60	Dg	Various expenses
28/10/04	\$87.99	Telstra	
13/10/04	\$1,408	Prowse Perrin & Twomey	
22/9/04	\$426	Sec Hon	Dec Jan Temporary reduction of

			50%
22/9/04	\$81.01	The Sensible Sandwich	Board meeting
15/9/04	\$426	Sec Hon	Oct Nov Temporary reduction of 50%
15/9/01	\$181.50	Prowse Pperrin Twomey	
7/9/04	\$104.05	Australia Post	
27/8/04	\$71.50	Telstra	
20/8/04	\$50	DG	Travel expenses
21/8/04	\$426	Sec Hon	September Hon
12/8/04	\$70	DG	Reimbursement for modem (ADSL) set up
12/8/04	\$89.30	Australia Post	
4/8/04	\$23.50	DG	Travel to Open Channel meeting
3/8/04	\$136,81	Telstra	
22/7 /04	\$132	NETC	Membership and set-up

Accounts Paid total of **\$1539.86** submitted for approval that are reimbursable from CAV grant:

\$77.86	25/2/05	DG	Reimburse for Norton Anti-Virus 2005
\$194	10/2/05	DG	Reimburse for SYSTRAN
\$450	31/1/05	DG	Reimburse for SYSTRAN language translation software for Internet
\$231	27/1/05	DG	Replacement of computer copying

			hardware
\$258	8/1/05	Jim's Mowing	Computer repairs and upgrade
\$40	9/12/04	DG	Reimburse for online upgrade of WS Pro – software for updating web site
\$289	24/11/04	Adobe	Upgrade of software for australia.cooperc
\$1539.86			